



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 14, 2006

FACT SHEET

SANDERS ANNOUNCES CITY'S SUMMER PLANS FOR KEEPING BEACHES, PUBLIC AREAS SAFE AND CLEAN FOR ALL

Summer Enforcement Plan includes Heavy Gang Emphasis; City Announces Park and Beach Clean Up Plans

Mayor Jerry Sanders believes that summer is a great time of year and that all San Diegans should be able to enjoy the City's public lands, principally its parks and beaches, safely. In order to reassure San Diegans of the plans that their City is making to keep public areas safe, clean and accessible, the Mayor was joined today by City Attorney Mike Aguirre and Councilmembers Brian Maienschein, Tony Young and Ben Hueso to announce the City's crowd and law enforcement strategies as well as the plans to clean up the parks and beaches after large crowds.

San Diegans can also do their part to make the upcoming summer weekends and holidays a great time of year. The Mayor also announced some helpful hints for all San Diegans.

Summer traditionally brings large crowds to the City's parks, beaches and bays. The Police Department's enforcement strategies are constantly reviewed and adjusted to ensure maximum efficiency and effectiveness in dealing with potential problems during this busy season.

SUMMER PARK AND BEACH CROWD AND LAW ENFORCEMENT PLAN

The Northern and Western Divisions of the San Diego Police Department have prepared comprehensive staffing and action plans to address their respective park and beach areas and will ensure adequate staffing, traffic control and law enforcement for the special needs of the upcoming summer months.

Northern Division (Mission Beach, Pacific Beach, Belmont Park)

This division will deploy full-time beach teams whose duties and responsibilities include enforcement of misdemeanor offenses including:

- Open container
- Minors in possession of alcohol

- Illegal lodging
- Vandalism
- Lewd acts

Their enforcement posture will be pro-active with an emphasis on preventing crime by being high-visibility.

Northern Division's Harbor Unit will provide seven-day coverage in the waterways and parkland areas in and around Mission Bay Park during 1st and 2nd watch hours.

They investigate misdemeanor violations on land and crimes on the water that include:

- Driving under the influence
- Speeding
- Theft
- Vandalism

Traffic Motor Division will work in conjunction with the daytime Beach Team to address all traffic-related matters and assist with misdemeanor enforcement and responding to calls for service. Special Event Traffic Controllers (SETC) has been assigned to provide traffic control from Belmont Park to the South Mission Beach jetty every Sunday throughout the summer from 1:30 pm – 5:30 pm.

Mission Bay Park will have Park Rangers assigned to the area during the daytime hours each day throughout the summer.

They are responsible for responding to quality of life concerns, which include:

- Illegal lodging
- Litter
- Illegal parking
- Assisting the police as witnesses to crime

Western Division (Ocean Beach)

This division will increase the Walking Patrol Teams on the beach boardwalk to enforce alcohol regulations and Patrol Officers will continue to conduct bar checks to reduce violent crime. Officers will also be assigned to walking patrols on Newport Avenue to increase police presence during evening hours.

A traffic grant will be used to fund two days of overtime dedicated exclusively for beach area traffic enforcement. Ongoing training of additional officers to operate the 4x4 and “quad” wheeled vehicles will increase the Police Department’s ability to respond to calls for service on the sand.

Both Divisions will continue attendance at community meetings and forums to identify issues requiring police action.

July 4th Celebration

The 4th of July holiday traditionally brings big crowds to the beach and bay areas. This year the 4th of July falls on a Tuesday, increasing the event to a four-day affair.

Using lessons learned from previous holiday weekends and special events that draw large crowds, the Police Department's Operational Support Unit, in cooperation with the beach commands of Northern and Western Divisions, have prepared a comprehensive action plan for managing the anticipated crowds during the holiday celebration. The Police Department's enforcement focus is to curb violence, reduce thefts and remove severely intoxicated individuals.

Statistics for 4th of July Weekend 2005 (three-day totals):

- Crowds in excess of 1,140,000 people

In spite of the huge crowds, San Diego remains one of the safest big cities in the United States. Consider that in spite of the large crowds, arrests were minor:

- Reduced crime compared to 2004 weekend crime
- 28 felony arrests
- 84 misdemeanor arrests
- 1,418 misdemeanor citations
- 98 persons transported to Detox for public drunkenness

PARK AND BEACH CLEANLINESS DURING THE 4TH OF JULY WEEKEND

The City's Park and Recreation Department, which is responsible for cleaning the City's beaches on a daily basis during the summer, will employ the following strategy for keeping San Diego's beaches and shoreline parks clean during the busy 4th of July weekend:

Countless volunteers assist City staff in their clean-up efforts. More than 1,500 trash receptacles are set out throughout the beaches and Mission Bay Park area. Last year approximately 150 tons of debris were collected and disposed of.

During the period of July 1 through July 5, work crews will staff all the City's beaches and Mission Bay Park from approximately 6:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Beaches and Shoreline Parks

This section will be staffed by approximately 54 team members per day.

- All restrooms and trash receptacles will be serviced throughout the day. Extra refuse dumpsters (40 cubic yards each) have been ordered and will be placed as appropriate.
- On Wednesday, July 5, it is the City's goal to have all beaches, parking lots, playground areas and restrooms cleared of debris by 11:00 a.m.
- Staff will once again offer free plastic trash bags to beach visitors with the hope that the bags will be filled and left on-site for disposal by City staff.

Mission Bay

- On Saturday, July 1, and Sunday, July 2, 35 team members will be on-site from 6:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.
- On July 3, 4 and 5, approximately 70 City staff will be on-site from 6:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. In addition, and on each of the above dates, an additional 23 Urban Corps and Public Service workers will assist.
- At Sail Bay, additional portable restrooms and refuse containers will be placed and serviced throughout the day.
- Thousands of plastic trash bags will be offered to the public.
- Additional large refuse dumpsters have been ordered and will be placed throughout the bay.

SUMMER GANG ENFORCEMENT

The primary mission of the San Diego Police Department's Gang Unit is to reduce gang violence and crime. Operating year round, this unit contains both investigative and uniformed personnel who focus exclusively on gang issues and their impact on the community.

In anticipation of heightened gang activity during the summer months, the Gang Unit will:

- Continue seeking a gang injunction on members of the West Coast Crips in Southeastern Division
- Proactively conduct probation and parole sweeps as needed to deter gang activity
- Monitor the beaches in Western and Northern Divisions that generally experience increased gang activity during the summer.

What San Diegans can do to make their visits to San Diego's parks and beaches more enjoyable:

- Arrive early – make a day of it – plan activities and bring your patience with you.
- Carpool or consider using public transportation to get to your destination.
- Hydrate, hydrate, hydrate. The sun is warm. Keep your body temperature down. Listen to your body – know when it's time to come out of the sun.
- Apply plenty of sunscreen throughout the day and especially after you have come out of the water.
- Safeguard your valuables. Either don't bring them with you or keep a close eye on them.
- Keep your kids within eye sight and stay together as a group. Have a meeting place and time pre-arranged in case you become separated.
- Pick up after yourself. Collect your own garbage in a bag that you bring and take it home with you to dispose of.
- Only swim on protected beaches within view of lifeguards. Avoid riptides and strong currents. Know your swimming ability.
- Mind the quantities that you drink and do not go into the water if you have consumed alcoholic beverages.
- Be respectful of others and obey the laws.
- Don't drink and drive. Appoint a designated driver before you leave home.



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MAYOR ANNOUNCES CREATION, PLANS OF CITY COMMISSION ON GANG PREVENTION AND INTERVENTION

*Commission's Main Focus Is to Create City-wide Strategy for Addressing Gang
Issues; Executive Director of Commission Expected to be on the Job, July 3*

Mayor Jerry Sanders today announced the creation and plans for the City's first ever Commission on Gang Prevention and Intervention. The Mayor thanked and congratulated 4th District Councilmember Tony Young for spearheading the creation of the Commission. The Commission will be an official advisory body to the Mayor, City Council, and the City Manager.

The Commission's mission will be the creation an overall strategy to address gang issues in the City, and specifically ways to prevent gang involvement. While the Police Department's Gang Unit focuses primarily on enforcement issues, the Commission's focus will be to develop a more strategic, coordinated and collaborative effort between the City, law enforcement agencies, social service providers and the public, in the areas of gang prevention and intervention.

Mayor Sanders also announced today that the Executive Director of the Commission is expected to be in place on July 3. The City received 120 applications for the position; that number was whittled down to five and final interviews are currently taking place with the finalists.

Timeline for Creation of Gang Commission:

April 4, 2006: City Council passed the Ordinance establishing the San Diego Commission on Gang Prevention and Intervention

April 7, 2006: Ordinance signed by Mayor Sanders

May 2-30, 2006: Executive Director of Gang Commission position posted for applications. 120 applications received

June 2006: Currently five applicants are finalists. Throughout June, Council districts are forwarding the names of two Commission member nominees each from their district to the Mayor's office. The Mayor's office is identifying additional potential commission members.

July 3, 2006: Executive Director of Gang Commission to start employment.

September 2006: Anticipated that commissioners will be approved by City Council. First Commission meeting.

The Gang Commission will consist of 17 members as follows:

- One member from each council district (chosen by the Mayor from two nominees submitted by each councilmember to represent his or her district)
- One at-large member
- One member from the field of K-12 education
- One member from a community organization working on gang issues
- One member from the field of law enforcement
- One member from the field of public health
- One member from the field of social services
- One member from the San Diego Association of Governments
- One member from the San Diego Workforce Partnership
- One member who will be a reformed gang member

Once in place, the Commission will meet monthly and:

- make policy recommendations to the Mayor and City Council on gang prevention, intervention, diversion and suppression methods
- Identify local, state and federal funding sources
- Identify best practices
- Identify gang prevention solutions that are part of a more comprehensive plan, and do not require funding, i.e. truancy sweeps
- Form subcommittees to analyze critical issues of gang involvement
- Network with boards, agencies and community residents on gang related issues

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